

# **Lowell Tobacco Control Report**

## **January of 2022**

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**Program Director**

### **Lowell**

#### **Inspections**

We have visited 32 establishments this month, so far. General compliance remains improved. Replaced a few signs that were either missing or had been covered with advertisements. Instructed retailers to get updated manufacturers' letters.

#### **Compliance Checks**

No compliance checks conducted this month. I plan to resume compliance checks in February. These will include traditional tobacco products such as cigarettes and cigars as well as various vaping products.

#### **Policy Revisions**

As previously mentioned, a list of possible tweaks to the local regulation will be presented at the February meeting. This will not be an in-depth presentation. Rather, it will be the beginning of a discussion on how to improve our current tobacco regulation for a more effective and consistent enforcement.

#### **Reaction to Article about Brookline's New Tobacco Ordinance**

We have received an email from the New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association, Inc. (NECSEMA) in response to the article about Brookline's new tobacco ordinance I included in my last report. The ordinance bans the sale of tobacco products based on date of birth, not age. The email expressed concerns about a similar policy potentially being considered by the Lowell Board of Health. For clarification, I included that article for informational purposes only, as I routinely have done so with other articles. I have no intention to recommend a similar policy for the City of Lowell.

#### **Tobacco Permit Renewals**

Below is the final status of the two previously outstanding permit applications:

1. Lizardo's Market and Restaurant – 421 Central Street: permit was issued on January 4<sup>th</sup>;
2. The Liquor Shack – 815 Lakeview Avenue: Stopped selling tobacco, pending the sale of the establishment